

THE THESPIANS

Perform the Stranger and Dumb Bell to-night.

COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE M. L. REPUBLICAN.

METAPHYSICAL.—No. 2.

An Essay read before "The Literary and Potomac Association," (Miss.) by
A Member,

Thursday Evening Decr. 27th, 1838,
on the question—

Is the mind and soul one and the same thing?

This, instead of challenging and bewildering ourselves and others (as all philosophers and mystagogues have heretofore done) is shrewdly attempting to show whence comes and whither goes the soul—by considering and investigating its *nature* and *properties* (as they imagined) which is almost as sensible and ingenious, in a matter of this kind, allowing the soul to exist, as it would be to take his wind of the mouth of a river, and, attempt, by subduing the water, to tell whence it came—I have analogically considered man as I have found him—in whom the soul is said to exist. And, as before remarked, our inquiries result in this, that instead of the specific existence of a spirituality organized and shadowy being, co-existing with but entirely opposite, in nature and essence, to the human body, and denominating the soul I find a *latent principle* existing in perfect congruity with, but not produced by, or producing organic matter, and entirely independent of it—*naïve common to both the animal and vegetable kingdoms*—marking the specific and distinct existence of every vegetable and animal organization, from the coral up to the polypus and from the polypus up to man.

This truth will appear still more clear and forcible when we consider of and determine upon the origin of the mind, which I will now proceed to discuss.

That the term *mind* is the most apt and philosophical representative of the idea it is intended to convey, may be sufficiently proved and made clear, by merely defining it.

Mind is that *vital, impalpable, and elusive essence*, by which we think and remember—compare and judge—in regard to all things material and immaterial; it originates in and emanates from the brain, and implies and indicates intellectual power.

That the mind originates in and is confined to the brain, would be of very easy proof, if it could be supposed there are any in this enlightened day, in doubt about it. There have been so many instances, in this, as well as all other countries, whereby the fact has been incontrovertibly established, aside from anything like philosophy, that it would seem derogatory to yours Mr. C., and the understandings of the intelligent members of our Association, and a work of supererogation on my part, to offer, at this time, any proof in support of it.

I will merely remark that it is a well known fact, and now, almost universally admitted, among the cruder, that when the hard bony substance or skull which covers and protects the brain is the least cracked or otherwise severely injured, the mind is more or less affected by it. And to perforate or injure the cranium or thin membrane which immediately covers the brain, still more seriously affects and deranges it. And, if the brain itself, and especially a particular part of it, be harshly disturbed and injured by violence, the mind is, at once, destroyed.

Moreover, the mind, from its peculiar nature, may be injured and even destroyed, by other causes than those already mentioned. External circumstances of a particular character—such as love and disappointment, especially in youth, and sometimes in grey hairs, occasionally operate so powerfully upon it, and through it upon the corporal system, that the mind more frequently and now and then both give way under its effect. But I trust enough has been said to satisfy all that the brain is the original and local habitation of the mind.

And I will here remark, though it is not exactly in point, that what has just been said above proves this fact, namely, that life is not necessarily affected, much more destroyed by the destruction of the mind. For there have been hundreds of instances where life survived the destruction of the mind, in the same individual, for a great number of years. And I will add, that it also goes far to substantiate what I have said, in regard to what is called the *soul*. For we know that where the mind is destroyed and the individual still lives, all is gone (which gives evidence of either mind or soul,) but the principle of life. It is preposterous, not to say ridiculous, to suppose that such a being has an accountable soul. When the mind is gone, all have seen that the imaginary "better part"—the impermane—affords no assistance nor evidence of its existence whatever! All is blank vacuity darkness and error!

The person knows not himself nor the God who made him: both of which, are indispensable in that hypothesis, which recognizes the existence of such a being.

Then, if my arguments and conclusions as advanced in regard to the soul and the principle of life, and what has just been said on the origin of the mind, be true, I have established the 3 last branches of my affirmative proposition; namely, "That the brain (alluding to the mind) is its immediate origin and dwelling place, that it is different from and dependant upon what is called the principle of life, and that the term *mind* is apt, natural and philosophical representative."

Having disposed of the first branch of the question, whence come the mind and soul? I will now proceed to the consideration of the second branch of it—how are they produced?

You perceive Mr. C., that, in the discussion of the first branch of the question, I have been driven to the painful and irksome duty and necessity of discussing what is, I may say, universally understood to be the soul, from my hypothesis. So that now, the discussion will assume a somewhat different character from what it was at the commencement of the debate. My remarks and investigations will henceforth be confined to the mind alone. And the difficult task, as it seems all now heretofore have regarded it, of showing how it is produced, now devolves upon me. Permit me, then, to beg of you not to judge before the time. Hear the whole and then *ready or reject* it. "Nothing ignominious yet set down ought in public."

In view of all that I have said in regard to the general vegetable and the animal kingdom, analogically considered, in regard to the subject before us, and their connection with the astonishing and sublime project of all creation by him, at whose dreadful and creative fiat all things came forth from ancient Anarch's chaotic dominions, where innocent matter ruled upon matter, wild confusion in terrific and hideous clash, met confusion, and frightful discord, tumult, chance and pain, now, spread eternal disorder throughout "saddo-cested night's" dismal empire, and tremblingly flow, each to its respective sphere, grade and station, in strict obedience to his omnipotent mandate; and in universal and harmonious concord commence their unceasing and eternal revolutions—production and decay, reproduction and redecay—with perfect precision and perfect accomplishment; I say, in view of all this analogically and philosophically considered, in reference to the subject before us, a field opens upon one astonished mortal vision as broad and deep as creation itself! And universal nature cries out in a voice sweet and melodious, yet audible as "sevenfold thunder" and pronounces, that, there are but two great natural powers known to man, in all the universe; namely, *mind* and *matter*; that there are but two great active natural principles to be found in all creation; namely, cause and effect, and that universal, eternal and immutable laws pervade, the whole empire of God!

Guided by these powers, principles and laws, it will be impossible, in the nature of things, for us to err in our arguments and conclusions in regard to the subject matter under consideration.

That immutable law pervades all nature, as a whole, as well as all specific existence—animate and inanimate, it would seem, needs only to be asserted to be admitted. We know as a general rule, that nothing that exists from the sun, which we regard as the grand centre of the grand centre of the universe, down to the most insignificant animals, plants and particles of inanimate matter, fail to accomplish the objects of their creation. The conclusion, then, is irresistible that he who created all things abased upon the whole and each and every part, certain immutable laws for their government.—To the wise and necessary end that one thing should not encroach upon another, and thereby produce or reduce every thing again into their primitive anarchy and chaotic confusion. But that each should act and be confined within its respective sphere and thus harmonize in glorious and magnificent concert throughout the stupendous whole until time shall be no more!

That certain causes produce certain effects, especially in regard to all created things, all nature fully testifies. Thus, we find, confining ourselves to the basis of my hypothesis, as a general rule, that the whole chain in the mineral kingdom, is immediately produced by certain occult agents, as before remarked, naturally existing in the created earth; or, if you please, rising from the creation of the earth; and without which these mineral substances never could have existed. And keeping up the analogy, these mineral substances are themselves a series of causes naturally producing their effects. In the direct and natural line, it is true, their solidity and durability are the only effects, excepting a few of the most refined and exquisite formations—such as the various gems. But in a secondary light (and such was, no doubt, the primary object of their creation), we see effects as striking and pleasing to the eye as any, almost that can be produced in all nature's productions. I allude, as your intelligent minds no doubt, have already anticipated, to the glowing and exquisite beauty of the polished marble and many other similarly polished substances belonging to the same kingdom; some, no doubt, and perhaps, many of which you all have seen.

But here the principles cease to operate. And indeed they do not go quite so far as we have here considered. Art must be employed, in the case of the marble, and many others; but not so with the diamond. The object of these mineral substances being obtained, there is no further necessity for the agency of the principles of cause and effect, in regard to these particular things.

In the vegetable kingdom, we see, still more clearly the operations of the principles of cause and effect.—Here no secondary agency or artificial means are required to bring out and exhibit the effects of the causes, as it seems God intended should be the case in some instances, in the mineral kingdom. But the causes themselves, if you will, so to speak, in bold relief their natural effects. And hence, we find, as a general rule, that every species of organised vegetable matter produces not only foliage flowers and fruit; but that, also which contains within itself the principle of a re-production of the same species; or, more properly, the principle of life. And thus, the original being created

by God, naturally produces the basis of a reproductive life, so that cause and effect follow each other in my continuous succession throughout the whole vegetable kingdom. And herein we may discover one of its most striking peculiarities as well as its great superiority, in the progressive order of creation, over the mineral kingdom.

But it is more particularly the cause and effect as it regards the foliage flowers and fruits of this kingdom we have to do with at this time. And we are all so familiar with this subject, or, at least, with the effects, that it does seem to be useless to attempt to enter into argument what every one who has read his bookhook is ready most readily to admit. We all know, as Nature herself hath taught us, that, the plant, the shrub and the tree are the immediate cause of the foliage flowers and fruits, their effects.

For the Marshall County Republican.

THE VICE PRESIDENCY.

It has been a subject of frequent remark in the political circles and the newspapers of the day, for the last year have given the information that the present incumbent of the Vice Presidential Chair, does not desire to be run by the Democratic party at the next election, for that office. Whether these statements are made on the authority of Col. Johnson, I know not. I have seen nothing from the old Paurin himself either confirming or denying the statement which appears to be made in papers of all political complexion.

If it should be true that Col. Johnson wishes to retire at the expiration of his present term, from the distinguished station he now occupies, it is "high time" or at least it should not be considered presumption, that the democratic party should be "caring about" to find a suitable person to be run on the ticket with Mr. Van Buren at the approaching Presidential election. There will be some difficulty, the writer honestly believes, in making a proper selection; not for the want of good materials heaven knows but in making a good and judicious selection out of the great number of talented patriotic and distinguished gentlemen who, at this day, adorn the democratic party. It is not now like it was forty years ago that suitable statesmen could be found in but two or three States to fill the two highest offices in our Government. There is now scarcely a State in the Union, but can furnish one or more suitable persons to fill either of those distinguished stations. It were well for the country that the democratic party have on all questions of this sort manifested so much sagacity in their choice of materials when selecting candidates to represent their views and principles in the national councils.

I cannot here refrain from making an allusion to a memorable instance in which the foresight and sagacity of our party were so signalized displayed—I mean in the choice of a candidate for the office of which I now speak at the last election.

It is known to the country that in the National Convention the "Hero of the Thames" had but one formidable rival for the Vice Presidency—William C. Rives of Virginia, whose claims were urged by his friends very warmly, but the convention could not overlook the superior claims of the war-worn veteran, and give such high honors to one, whose claims were inferior in point of service to the country as well as in patriotism.

Developments since that hour, have, from time to time been made, which justify the conclusion, that the convention did right in rejecting the pretensions of one whose patriotism and political honesty were only commensurate with the personal and political aggrandizement which he received at the hands of the party to which he may belong.

From the time of Mr. Rive's rejection by the convention we may, by looking back, see signs of his intended apostacy, and now, in the space of two short years we behold him (a good democrat, as long as he is a democrat, will give him office,) snugly seated in the ample folds of the great political Boa Constrictor thereto to remain long enough to receive the bedaubing stroke of the small Boa's and then the great Boa will crush him to atoms and swallow him, and that will be the last of the once independent and high-minded Republican—one a Republican of his country at a Foreign Court—William C. Rives! If *Conversation* serves men this way, may the Lord deliver me from its embrace!

In looking for a suitable person to be run on the democratic ticket with Mr. Van Buren at the next election, provided Col. Johnson should wish to withdraw I know of no gentleman who combines more of the necessary qualifications, and who would be more acceptable to, and could better unite the great democratic family, for the Vice Presidency than the Hon. JAMES K. POLK, the present distinguished Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Col. Polk has been in public life for many years. He was a member of the Tennessee Legislature, and the present session of Congress closes his fourteenth year as a member of the House of Representatives from Tennessee. The last four years of his service in Congress he presided over the deliberations of the popular branch and for evidence of the fairness, dignity, impartiality and ability with which he filled this high and honorable station, reference is made to the votes on the "thousand and one" appeals taken from his decisions, by which it will appear he was almost universally sustained, and that too by the recorded votes of his political enemies; other evidences are to be found in letters written to him by retiring members who bear witness to his faithful discharge of his duties as speaker. No speaker has ever met with such fierce opposition, as Col. Polk—None has ever so completely demolished his persecut-

ers. And no one has ever enjoyed so large a measure of popularity or influence as he has, and I may add, the *gentleman* has ever prevailed with more ability to and grand (qualification) as speaker of the House of Representatives of the American Congress than Col. Polk.

His gentlemanly courtesy, scrupulous honor, *honesty* and undeniably integrity as a man, His pro-republican principles, his consistent, energetic and able labor of them at all times, and his numerous public services justly entitle him to the honor of filling the Vice Presidential Chair.

JEFFERSON

PUBLIC MEETING.

At a meeting of the citizens of Hernando, held in the Court House, on Thursday the 21st Feb., 1839, Col. James H. Murray was elected to the chair, and Felix LaBauve appointed secretary.

The object of the meeting having been explained by the chairman, on motion of Ferdinand G. Talbot, Esq., the chair appointed a committee of five, for the purpose of drafting a preamble and resolutions. Dr. R. C. Hancock, Ferdinand G. Talbot, John C. Bryan, Dr. John E. Coffey, and John L. Brown, were appointed on said committee, and after having retired a short time said committee returned, and Ferdinand G. Talbot, Esq., recited the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, Departed this life on Saturday evening the 16th inst., the Hon. P. W. Humphreys, aged 67 years.

For private worth, stern integrity, strict devotion to law, principle and order and Government none deservedly stood higher, or commanded more universal esteem, respect and confidence. For many years in public life—First in the Legislature of the State of Tennessee; secondly, in Congress, (during the struggle of the late War;) Thirdly on the Circuit Bench, afterwards on the Supreme Bench of the State of Tennessee; and lastly, President of the Hernando Railroad and Banking Company, throughout all of which stations, he acquitted himself with a credit and distinction alike for his firmness, sterling habits, indefatigable zeal and patriotism. He was generous to a fault—kind, benevolent, and conciliating; affable and accessible in demeanor, beloved and rated on by all who knew him. He was high minded and honorable, and above all *HONEST*, which is the noblest and the richest bloom of god's creation. He died as he lived, honored and esteemed by all—left behind him an extensive circle of FRIENDS—a character spotless, unimpeached, and unimpeachable—a name at which the finger of scorn dare never point, or malice utter aught, and a standing of which any might well be proud. Therefore, as a testimonial of respect, for the high esteem in which we the citizens of Hernando held the deceased we offer the following preamble and resolutions for adoption:

1st. That we bemoan the loss of the deceased with sentiments of the deepest, and the most heart-felt regret; and in him, society has sustained the loss of an esteemed friend and distinguished member.

2d. That we sympathise with the aged and much afflicted widow of the deceased, and the relatives generally.

3d. That the Directory of the Bank—the officers thereof—together with the members of the Bar, and the friends of the deceased, wear the usual badge of mourning on the left arm for the space of thirty days.

4th. That a copy of the proceedings of this meeting be forwarded to the widow and family of the deceased.

5th. That the above resolutions be published in the "Western World," "Nashville Union," and "Marshall County Republican."

6th. That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the Chairman, and countersigned by the Secretary.

JAMES MURRAY, Chairman,
FELIX LABAUVE, Secretary,
Hernando, Feb. 1, 1839.

From the Baltimore Republican.
MARTIN VAN BUREN.

It is truly a source of much pleasure to behold the firm and undividing adherence of Martin Van Buren to his principles. At all times calm and collected, he steadily pursues the even tenor of his way, bent upon the performance of his duty to those who elevated him to the exalted station which he now fills, with so much credit to himself and honor to his country. During the darkest period of the panic he was firm and decided, relying implicitly upon the "sober second thought" of his honest and intelligent countrymen. That "second thought" of the people has been expressed in a tone which has made the heart of Federalism quail. The people have nobly sustained him, in his efforts to relieve them from the degrading despotism of a few calculators of mere dollars and cents, who presumptuously arrogate to themselves, the right to wield undisputedly the destinies of the nation. The democracy of the country, have just cause to be proud of the man whom they have placed at the head of their national affairs. He has proved himself worthy to succeed the great and good Jackson, "the man who filled the measure of his country's glory!"